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Latino greeks on the rise

Latino students at Eastern are finding a place to feel at home through greek organizations.

Page 1 in MINORITY TODAY

Davidson retains position

♦ *New senate re-elects
speaker for a second semester*

By **Jamie Fetty**
MANAGING EDITOR

The newly seated Student Senate re-elected Bill Davidson as its speaker after more than an hour of speeches and debates when he ran against graduate economics major Brice Donnelly at Wednesday night's senate meeting.

Davidson was this semester's speaker, delivering a performance that many senate members criticized during debates. In last week's State of the Senate address, Davidson criticized some members for sitting on senate to pad their resumes. In return, he received criticism for not pushing senate members to create legislation that affected the entire university.

"Passing bills that only have to do with senate? Is that consistency?" asked Amy Leonard, student vice president for business affairs, when senate members advocated reelecting Davidson to avoid switching speakers mid-year.

But in the end, it was what senate members called Davidson's approachability and passion for senate that won the election.

"That passion eats me up inside when things go wrong," Davidson said during a question-and-answer session following candidate speeches and endorsements.

Senate members also lauded Davidson for always being available.

When blamed for the senate's lack of pertinent legislation or goals during the past semester, Davidson took the floor in his own defense, saying he could neither tell senate members what legislation to write or stop them from writing internal legislation.

"A lot of goals cannot be accomplished in one semester," Davidson said after the meeting.

Davidson hopes to continue to "run a tight ship" when he presides over senate meetings, but promote the laid-back atmosphere Davidson said distinguishes him from past speakers. He also said he plans to assign goals to committee chairs and meet with them weekly or biweekly to keep up on their progress.

Donnelly, while hailed for his devotion to his senate and committee duties during his first semester as a member, was



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Bill Davidson, speaker of the Student Senate, listens during debate in the Student Senate meeting Wednesday night in the Arcola-Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Davidson was re-elected to his seat after running against Brice Donnelly.

criticized by a number of senate members for being "unapproachable."

In his speech endorsing Donnelly, Jeff Collier, last semester's senate secretary, spoke of his commitment to promoting diversity within senate. Collier also praised Donnelly's ability to bridge the gap between people in senate who called themselves "arch enemies" or who, at the least, could rarely agree.

"He's very capable; he's neutral and open-minded," Collier said.

Donnelly will graduate with his mas-

ter's in economics in August and therefore will not seek the seat again. He plans to stay on senate during the spring semester. During the fall, Donnelly served as Faculty Senate liaison and on the Tuition and Fee Review and Student Relations committees.

While Donnelly was disappointed with the loss, he felt the discussion generated by the race will help senate in the coming semester.

"It's still a better senate with everything out in the open," he said.

Mediator, negotiators meet again

♦ *UPI President David Radavich said
another meeting is probable*

By **John Chambers**
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Federal mediator Jerry Carmichael met with the Charles Delman, chief negotiator for Eastern's chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois, and the administration's negotiating team for the second time in nine months of negotiations.

The mediator was first called in October to help bring a settlement for a new three-year faculty contract.

UPI President David Radavich said the meeting today was more of an information gathering session that will likely bring another meeting with the mediator in the future.

Delman said he met with the mediator for an hour and a half.

"It was a very productive discussion. He is a good listener," he said. "Settling the contract is a top priority for the faculty."

The administration's negotiating team meeting with the mediator also was productive, said Bob Wayland, director of employee and labor relations, in a university press release.

"We found Wednesday's discussions with Jerry Carmichael...to be productive and insightful," Wayland said.

More inside

♦ Students share their thoughts on the contract negotiation process
Page 3

"Settling the contract is a top priority for the faculty."

— Charles Delman

"Our conversation helped further clarify some key issues in ongoing negotiations."

Issues discussed with the mediator are confidential, but a future meeting with the mediator could be a possibility, Delman said.

"I think that will depend on what progress is made," he said.

"Mr. Carmichael has provided some useful suggestions for making our negotiations more productive," Wayland said.

The UPI is bargaining for such issues as smaller class sizes, more time reserved for faculty to do research and work with students and raises in faculty and staff salaries.

Issues the UPI also introduced last spring include intellectual property and patent rights for faculty members, distance education assignments and multi-year contracts for annually contracted faculty.

Executives say projects are coming along well

Editor's note: After a semester, The Daily Eastern News examines how well Student Government executives have fulfilled their campaign promises.

Avian Carrasquillo
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

Alison Mormino,
student body president

Goals

- ♦ Establish a Campus Day Care Program
- ♦ Increase support for Eastern athletics with Blue Crew
- ♦ Establish a volunteer Project

In her own words...

"Some of the goals that I ran on

were Bucket Brigade, a volunteer project, I knew that wouldn't be accomplished in the fall, it's something that is going to happen in the spring hopefully. It's running a little slower than I had hoped, (and) some of those goals haven't been accomplished because you get caught up in meetings and paperwork that goes along with the job. Blue Crew is coming together.

Alison Mormino



"I thought at the time that I would be able to secure grant

funding for that. The grant I was looking at for (the campus day-care program, the deadline was over the summer. It didn't come through because I don't know anything about writing a grant proposal. We're still looking at other options for that."

Ronnie Deedrick,
student vice president for academic affairs

Goals

- ♦ Implement "Pick a Prof" database,
- ♦ More student input on hiring for academic faculty in departments that don't seek student input.

In his own words...

"I would say we made a lot of progress this semester. One of the goals that we ran on last year was 'Pick a Prof,' and we've done research this semester. As I have stated, we've kind of gotten bogged down with that because it's probably going to call for a fee increase to pay for the program itself, unless we can find a government grant or



Ronnie Deedrick

money elsewhere. I'm not comfortable with telling the students that if

you want this service you have to pay more money, considering the current times with the budget. It just wouldn't be fair to them.

"Grade appeals wasn't an issue I ran on, but an issue I brought up. I will be presenting a proposal at the Council on Academic Affairs this week, and it would be acted on the first week that we're back. Faculty hiring is the other big thing that I ran on, we came full circle with that, but after semester break, I'm going to be sitting down and setting up a committee on how we can implement getting students in there. The committee will be made up of students, faculty, department chairs and administration to get students



Choirs to share lessons, carols

◆ *Concert and Women's choral groups to take part in holiday concert*

By Layne Utsinger
STAFF WRITER

The music department will present Lessons and Carols at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Wesley United Methodist Church.

The concert will feature Eastern's Concert Choir and Women's Chorus performing the works of Frances Poulenc, Herbert Howells, Benjamin Britten and John Jacob Niles, a press release said.

A variety of student soloists and performers will be featured along with seasonal favorites "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," "Silent Night" and "Angels We Have Heard on High," to name a few, a press release said.

"This is a way for people to

support the Concert Choir and Women's Chorus because they have spent about half the semester in preparation for this event," said Dan Crews, public relations director of the College of Arts and Humanities.

Lessons and Carols has been an annual tradition since 1928 and has been performed throughout the world. It also signals the true beginning of the Christmas season for many people around the world, a press release said.

"This is a great opportunity for students to relax and get into the holiday spirit before the stress of finals," Crews said.

While the carols have changed in the 84 years of the service's existence, the lessons and prayers have remained unchanged, a press release said.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Local theater opens auditions for musical

◆ *Actors Rural Theatre Company looks for help with 'My Fair Lady'*

By Matthew Kent
ACTIVITIES REPORTER

The Actors Rural Theatre Company based in Tuscola will have open auditions for Lerner and Lowe's musical "My Fair Lady." Based on George Bernard Shaw's play "Pygmalion," "My Fair Lady" is a dramatization of a Cockney flower girl's metamorphosis into a lady and combines social class, money, spiritual freedom and women's independence into an enduring and entertaining musical comedy.

Auditions are 9 a.m. to noon

Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday at the Fine Arts Center in Tuscola located at 211 E. Overton St.

Auditions are open to all ages. Those interested are encouraged to bring 16 bars of a prepared song and will read from the script. Selections from the script are available online at www.tuscola-artco.com

For more information or to schedule an alternative audition time, call 253-6699. Performance dates for "My Fair Lady" are Feb. 13-15, 20-22, 27-28 and March 1 with evening performances at 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinees run Feb. 16, 23 and March 2 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call the ARTCo box office at 253-6699.



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Looking for a hot date

Alicia Terran, freshman family and consumer sciences major, tries to attract some bids in the Taylor Hall date auction Wednesday night. The auction was held to raise money for the Make a Wish Foundation.

Infant mortality rate dropping

By Carly Mullady
CITY EDITOR

Gov. George Ryan announced Nov. 21 that the Illinois infant mortality rate dropped drastically to a record low throughout the state.

Coles County's infant death numbers also declined, from the year 2000's five deaths in 615 births to 2001's seven deaths in 596 births.

The Illinois Department of Health's infant mortality rate is determined by dividing the number of babies younger than a year old who die by the number of babies born and then multiplying that total by 1,000.

Statewide, the number of infant deaths has dropped approximately 10 percent since 2000 and 30 percent since 1990, as listed in the Illinois Department of Health's records.

Janet Stierwalt, a registered nurse and administrator of the Cumberland County Health Department, said she believes the rate has dropped recently because of the better prenatal programs offered to women.

"Targeting prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy is (instrumental) to an infant's health," Stierwalt said.

Most counties sponsor WIC, the Women, Infants and Children Program, as well as the Family Case Management Program within their health departments. Patients pay for the programs based on income, so low-income households can afford professional prenatal care.

These prenatal programs focus on education, assessment and reducing risk factors.

Women are taught the best practices for healthy pregnancies and raising an infant healthfully. Assessments are one-on-one counseling sessions between pregnant women and trained medical professionals.

Stierwalt said risk factors include poor nutrition, diabetes, smoking habits and alcohol or drug use. She emphasized the incredible risks of smoking during pregnancy. "Not smoking is extremely important because it has a profound effect on babies' low birth weight," Stierwalt said.

In a study of the dropping infant mortality rate, John R. Lumpkin, state public health director, emphasized low birth weight's threat on an infant's life. Babies born weighing less than 5 pounds 8 ounces are 40 times more likely to die before reaching one month old.

Chronic physical and learning disabilities are three times more common in people born with a low birth weight than those born with a normal birth weight.

Prenatal programs inform women of the best practices for ensuring a healthy baby. Warning them of the risk factors and guiding them in proper nutritional practices highly reduces the risk of problem pregnancies.

"The infant mortality rate will remain low as long as programs continue to be funded through state and federal government funds," Stierwalt said.

"Not smoking is extremely important because it has a profound effect on babies' low birth weight."

—Janet Stierwalt

Lumpkin's study of the decreasing infant mortality rate in Illinois also focused on divisions among race. Statistically, African-American babies have a higher infant death rate than Caucasian infants.

Lumpkin's study revealed that in 2001, the African-American infant mortality rate was about 15 deaths per 1,000 births, which is an all-time low for the state.

However, this rate is considerably higher than the Caucasian infant mortality rate in Illinois which also was at its lowest in 2001. This record low was about six deaths per every 1,000 live births.

Illinois women gave birth to more than 184,000 babies in 2001, according to Lumpkin's study. Of these births, about 1,400 babies died before their first birthday.

Stierwalt emphasized the affect prenatal programs have had on lowering death rates to this level.

Coles County Health Department offers the WIC and Family Case Management Programs. The Family Planning division of the local health department can be reached at 348-0530.

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CORRECTIONS

The photos from the Eastern men's basketball game run on pages 11 and 12 of Wednesday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News* were courtesy of *The Daily Illini*.
The News regrets the error.



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Construction continues on the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Students are anxious for the building to finish but have adjusted to their temporary homes.

Art students await the end of the semester

By Melissa Nielsen
SENIOR WRITER

As the semester winds down, most art students are preparing their final projects and reflecting on a rather difficult semester of delays, cut hours and lost time. Students are looking forward to a new semester, hoping it will go more smoothly. Megan Glosser, a junior studio art major, said she will have all her work completed before the deadline, despite losing two weeks in her class. However, she is more concerned with the excellence of her work rather than the quantity. "The quality of work has suffered for a lot of people," she said. Allen Tieri, a junior graphic design major, said classes are running smoothly now, but the lab hours and minor details have been

time consuming and costly. "It's required a lot of extra time and money for us," he said. Tieri said no one has restocked ink cartridges in the copiers, causing a long search for the right kind of copier off campus and forcing him to shell out his own money for the copies. Tieri also said the hours are especially inconvenient around finals time, especially since he does not drive a car to class. "I have to do everything on the bus's schedule," he said. Denise Rehm-Mott, a printmaking professor, said as the semester tolled on, she realized she would not have enough time to assign all her projects. She omitted one project from her syllabus, which was unfortunate for students but necessary considering the timeline.

Before midterm, students had trouble accepting that the building had shorter hours and it was further away, causing a lot of stress. However, with finals drawing closer she has noticed fewer anxieties. "All the issues that we're a problems, they dealt with," she said. "As time went on they worked everything out." Art classes were relocated to Art Park West during the construction and renovation of the Doudna Arts Center. Classrooms were not finished at the start of the semester, which caused major delays and complaints from students and faculty. Hours for the Art Park West also were slashed considerably because of safety issues bringing up more concern about time management problems.

Inquest jury finds student's cause of death a suicide

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

After over an hour of deliberations Wednesday, a Coles County jury found the cause of death of former Eastern student Brian R. Ford, 19, as suicide. Ford was pronounced dead Nov. 9 at the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. The jury deliberated between death by accidental causes and suicide, and found in favor of suicide by hanging. The toxicology test on Ford's death found no drugs in his system. His blood alcohol level was .01 percent. Ford's father, Dennis Ford, spoke at the inquest, passed around pictures of Ford and asked the jury not to find the cause of death as suicide. "The issue to us is 'how can six total strangers take a brief presentation of a brief, incomplete investigation and say what was in Brian's heart and mind and conclude in 30 minutes he wanted to die?' You cannot," Dennis Ford said. Ford was not in the state of mind to seriously contemplate suicide, Dennis Ford said. He had a 5.0 GPA at his high school in Jerseyville and continued the high academic standard at Eastern. He also was involved in soccer, wrestling, track and football in high school, Dennis Ford said. At Eastern, Ford was a member of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, American Red Cross, Christian Campus House, Student Senate, the University Baptist Church and the American Marketing Association.

"He made a mistake, he miscalculated."
—Dennis Ford

Dennis Ford said Brian died shortly before his 20th birthday Nov. 17. "You see in the very short time you are assembled this evening you have not had the chance to get to know Brian. He had a passion for living and he pushed it to the limit," he said. "He wanted to get someone's attention that evening because he was hurting. He made a mistake. He miscalculated." Dennis Ford quoted an excerpt from the New Standard Encyclopedia, stating that rural suicides received different treatment in investigations. "In rural communities and small towns, methods of detecting suicide are not always efficient...In these areas, too, suicides are often reported as accidental or from natural causes in order to spare the feelings of the victim's family," the encyclopedia states. Dennis Ford said such a ruling would have the same affect on his family. "Sometimes recklessly calling this type of death a 'suicide' is like rubbing salt in a wound or like adding insult to a injury," he said. After the verdict of suicide, Dennis Ford said the jury did not have a right to make the decision of suicide, but it was its appointed job. "I'm disappointed. It's not going to bring him back," he said.

Students affected by faculty contract negotiations

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

As negotiations for a new three-year faculty contract continue into the ninth month, students feel the impact of the process. "I feel right now at this moment it's just faculty trying anyway to get the student's support," said junior economics major Rob Marion. "It seems like it's just a tactic to get the students on their side. If teachers threaten — when they're contract is up it doesn't really look good." The University Professionals of Illinois are bargaining for smaller class sizes, more time reserved for faculty to do research and work with students and raises in faculty

and staff salaries. Marion said faculty can't realistically ask for everything they are bargaining. "If they want to get paid more than Me got to haMe large classes," he said. "Right now, times are tough, and than're just going to make it tougher (asking for salary increases)." The UPI has talked about the possibility of a strike, and members would haMe to be asked twice for a strike authorization vote before a strike occurs. Marion said a strike could haMe an effect on enrollment. "The campus would be obliterated. The students wouldn't want to come back," he said. "(Eastern) advertised really well last year.

Before, in the past, no one talked about Eastern." Sophomore undecided major Benjamin Nugent said a strike at the University of Illinois did not affect many students. "I went to the U of I and teachers were on strike last year," he said. "There were a few people that participated in the strike and it really didn't affect a lot of students." Freshman marketing major Megan Sparks said smaller class sizes would be beneficial, but she has never encountered a problem with the issue. "It would probably (lead to) a better relationship with students overall," she said. "For the most part, the most I have had in class size is 50

and I have a really good relationship with all my teachers." "I've had a couple of lecture classes I felt the class size was too big, and I felt like I couldn't talk to the teacher," said senior elementary education major Amy Hoffman. The issue of teacher salaries is important, Hoffman said. "I know that they don't get as much as other university (teachers)," she said. Faculty seem to be pushing for their own agenda when asking for salary increases, said junior art major Casey Carroll, student dean for the college of arts and humanities. "I can see kind of both sides I guess. I disagree with a lot of stuff (faculty) are saying," she said. "It's

almost like they say if they get paid more they'll be better teaching — depending on what happens it really affects students." Students need to be more concerned about faculty negotiations, said freshman biology major Kristen Kniephamp. "I don't think a lot of students care. I think they should because these are the people who are teaching us," she said. The UPI is pushing for higher teacher salaries because tuition increases has provided the university with 4 percent more in appropriated funds that can be given to civil, faculty and staff employees, UPI president David Radavich said at the UPI rally Tuesday.



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HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS (PG) DIGITAL SOUND
3:30, 7:00, 10:20
SANTA CLAUS 2 (G)
4:45, 7:15, 9:40
SOLARIS (PG 13)
5:00, 7:45, 10:10 Ends Thursday!
8 CRAZY NIGHTS (PG13)
4:15, 6:30, 8:45 Ends Thursday!
TREASURE PLANET (PG)
4:00, 6:15, 8:30 Ends Thursday!
8 MILE (R)
8:00 Ends Thursday!
EXTREME OPS: (PG 13)
5:15, 10:30
DIE ANOTHER DAY (PG 13)DIGITAL SOUND
3:45 6:45 9:50

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EDITORIAL

Activists far from apathetic

Many call college students apathetic and uninformed about current events and the world around them.

But a group at Eastern took great strides to change that conception.

A group of anti-war activists, about 100 strong, marched down Seventh Street last weekend carrying signs and chanting along the way to the Coles County Courthouse.

The group had a few speakers address an anti-war sentiment and the crowd cheered.

It's student activism that is seldom seen, but always welcome.

The demonstration was peaceful. No one was arrested, unlike the rowdy post-football game celebrations at other universities across the country.

While the group certainly won't strike fear into the heart of anyone in Washington, D.C., the movement was an encouraging sight.

The anti-war activists at Eastern show the school has a pulse. A cadre of students also marched a month ago on the Library Quad. Last weekend the group organized and amassed a much larger group to express their beliefs regarding the rampant political turmoil.

What the anti-war activists accomplished shows the power of student activism. Those who say a few voices don't have much power are wrong. It only takes a few people to start a stir and get more people on campus talking about the issues that will affect them.

There are many issues on campus and in the world that others can become active about as there have always been. More students need to follow the activists' lead and become activists themselves.

It's not difficult to become an activist. You don't have to march on the courthouse steps. People can get involved by knowing current events and developing an opinion on them. Once you've become an activist, encourage others to stand up for what they believe. This develops a strength in numbers that is no match for apathy. Speaking out on your beliefs is powerful, especially when you do it in numbers. Considering the number of students enrolled in the university, if everyone voiced their opinions, we could all make a substantial difference on local issues.

Student activism should be what the college experience is all about. If you're not involved, you're missing out.

The editorial is the majority opinion of the Daily Eastern News editorial board.

OPINION

Priorities of faculty affordable



Charles Delman
 Mathematics professor and guest columnist for The Daily Eastern News

He can be reached at 581-6274 or cfcid@eiu.edu

First, let me make one thing clear. The faculty understands the harm a strike would do to students. Students are the reason we are here. We will strike only if forced by an intransigent administration.

The changes we want in our next contract will greatly benefit students. With smaller classes and teaching loads, faculty will give students more individual attention. With more time for research, faculty will collaborate with students on original work that may well be the highlight of their college experience. Academic freedom, including faculty control of the Web as an educational medium, promotes a thoughtful and stimulating learning experience.

A university that does not provide for the intellectual life of its faculty cannot attract and retain the best creative talent, nor can a university that does not show its faculty respect and fair pay.

Sure, the faculty has a self-interest in better pay and working conditions, but these things benefit students as well. Faculty and students form a "community of scholars." Our interests are largely the same.

When I was handing out leaflets a few weeks ago, a student said to me, "I agree with your goals, but do you have a way to achieve them?" I was really pleased he challenged me; honest inquiry and debate are

"We will strike only if forced by an intransigent administration."

the essence of what universities are about.

Yes, we do have a way to achieve our goals. The faculty's priorities are affordable. Whereas the state is in a fiscal crisis, Eastern is not, thanks to increases in enrollment and tuition. It is true that funding levels from the state in the near future are uncertain. However, the cost of our priorities can be readily met with money in the current base budget while respect and academic freedom don't cost money.

Students and their parents may not be pleased to learn that their tuition and tax dollars go to support an administration that is one and one half times as large as it was fewer than 10 years ago at an additional cost of about \$3.5 million, although the size of the student body has not changed. Students and their parents also may question the use of \$1.3 million from tuition and tax dollars to subsidize the intercollegiate athletics program. (None of this amount goes to student scholarships.)

If Eastern redirects money when

administrators retire or resign and develops an athletic program that works within the revenues it can generate, there will be more than enough money to pay for the academic priorities advocated by the faculty and sorely needed by both faculty and students.

The state legislature has directed universities to both trim administrative costs and end subsidies for athletics from appropriated funds. University Professionals of Illinois is only suggesting that Eastern do what the legislature has already told it to do.

The administration has tried to suppress or distort information unfavorable to its interests. That is why UPI filed an unfair labor practice charge. This charge in no way interferes with mediation, but promotes it. It only will aid negotiations to have complete information about class size when discussing workload, for example.

Negotiations always end in compromise. The important issue is where the parties compromise.

If one party takes a position that is unsupported by sound principles or evidence, then the other party must exert pressure to return negotiations to honest and productive discussion. The faculty and administration can work together to settle our contract— if the administration wants to.

Cartoon by Matt Willis



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

World's beliefs 'extremely fallible'

As a serious collector of 17th, 18th and 19th century works of theology, I can attest to the fact that the word "homosexual" cannot be found in these antiquated works. This also is the case with the word "sex."

However, the verses that do talk about sex are unmistakable. This also is the case with homosexuality as well.

Despite the fact that the Bible does not, nor should it, read like a 21st century document, the most clear-cut Biblical passage portrays homosexuality as a sin. This passage can be found in Romans 1:27. The passage states, "And the men likewise gave up their natural relations with women and were consumed with passions for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in their persons the due penalty for their error."

The verse does not lose its meaning in books such as The King James or the Scofield Reference Bible, to name a few translations. When describing the previously mentioned passage commentators of the past will not use the word "homosexuality" either. However, it is obvious what they are talking about. In Thomas Scott's 1812 commentary, he refers to such an act "as not fit to be men-

tioned." In Matthew Henry's famous 1713 commentary, he refers to homosexuality as described in Romans 1:27 as "unnatural lusts" and "the crying iniquity of Sodom and Gomorrah." This is a very different opinion than what is commonly held today. But for America to believe such a thing, as it states in (Romans) verse 28, shows "they were given over to a reprobate mind."

For the people who do not read the Bible, have their devotions, participate in private and public studies and attend regular church services, a severe disadvantage is levied upon you. God's caring and loving guidance for your life is slowly but surely pushed aside in favor of the world's extremely fallible beliefs. The days when a Christian was content with semi-annual church attendance is over, and we should regret that it ever started.

Doug McGaghie
 Graduate history major

Property should not be given away

Is it legal or moral for Charleston politicians to give away public property? If so, it behooves them to explain that

in detail to its citizens and hold a referendum. Ever heard of democracy?!

Seventh Street, south of Lincoln Avenue, is by admission worth \$480,000. Also, by admission, "officials" at Eastern claim they have "no" money to purchase the street. Conversely, Mayor Cougill wants to barter away something that does not belong to him and that will admittedly only benefit 47 individuals. What's wrong with this picture? Everything!!

Eastern "officials" willingness and the mayor's eagerness for self-serving motives diminish the stature of both. How? Let us examine the comments of both. Eastern "officials" claim a budget shortfall because of state mandated cuts. Is this true? Yes! Poverty— No! Thus one would think, in view of tight money, a review of priorities would be the next order of business. Not so! Now, welcome into the picture Roscoe D. Cougill, that master of "town and gown" relations. He enters palms extended with a glistening eye, offering up a

sacrament to this tattered gown, and borne upon the backs of 10,000 citizens is a largess of \$480,000. For what? Forty-seven scholarships!! The costs to Eastern: \$0.00. The cost to Charleston citizens: \$480,000. Is this any way for either party to run a business? No!

It might be argued that all parties (willing or coerced) participated in the aforementioned process, and it must be admitted that they did. Eastern "officials" and Mayor Cougill get the "gold mine," and 10,000 Charlestonians will get the "shaft."

Finally, a picture... Charleston is sitting on Santa's knee. He says, "and what do you want for Christmas little one?" Little Charleston replies expectantly, "Oh Santa, I'd like a leaf-vac, a grinder and a nice farmer to help recycle." Little Charleston's fingers and toes wiggle in excitement, upon which Santa begins to laugh. He then sputters, "Gee whiz, kid, you ever heard of the Grinch?"

Michael Strange

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. Depending on space constraints, we may edit letters, so keep it concise. Letters can be sent to The Daily Eastern News at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to majones@eiu.edu

Security increases at the Coles County Courthouse

By Gary Horne
STAFF WRITER

The security updates in the Coles County Courthouse haven't been tested much in the nine months they've been in place.

Chief of Security Oren Lockhart said no specific incident in the courthouse caused the security increase.

"We do have problems on occasions," Lockhart said. "But nothing that's necessarily the reason for the new systems."

The change, which has been in effect since March, was put into place due to a few factors, including a rise in violence.

"I hate to say it has something to do with the events on Sept. 11 (2001)," said Lockhart. "But violence is on the rise."

Lockhart said the new security systems have no direct relation to the terrorist attacks, but the installation was moved forward following those events.

"This is something that we had actually first talked about way back in 1994," Lockhart said. "Now courtrooms all across the state are receiving updates to their systems."

The courthouse's new security systems include several cameras for monitoring more of the build-

"I hate to say it has something to do with the events on Sept. 11 (2001), but violence is on the rise."

—Chief of Security Oren Lockhart

ing at all times, an upright metal detector and an X-ray machine for inspecting the bags of anyone entering the courthouse, Lockhart said.

Lockhart also said incidents helped put increased security plans into action in nearby courthouses.

A courthouse in Tuscola was damaged recently due to a fire after closing time and a fire-bomb was set off in a crowded Urbana courtroom.

Even considering those events, Lockhart is not expecting any trouble within Charleston's courthouse. He said the security additions are meant to ensure safety.

"It's something that has been talked about for awhile," Lockhart said. "It was time to install the new equipment."



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Coles County Courthouse security officer Jimmy Rankin checks personal belongings and monitors the metal detector at the Coles County Courthouse Wednesday afternoon. The system has worked well since being installed.

Despite a difficult semester, Student Senate pleased

By Avian Carrasquillo
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

Despite budget woes, the threat of an impending strike and the tragic death of Student Senate member Brian Ford, the Student Government finished the difficult semester on a positive note Wednesday.

The Student Senate congratulated outgoing members and welcomed new ones at their final meeting. The senate also adopted a resolution regarding ongoing faculty contract negotia-

tions.

The Student Senate will recommend to Eastern's administration and Eastern's chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois that contract negotiations be resolved successfully and in a timely manner.

George Lesica, external relations committee chair, authored the resolution and said the inspiration came from dialogue with other schools at last weekend's Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Action Committee meeting held on

"My overall feeling is that it is a good idea. I think we have to represent the student voice."

—Senate member Kyle Donash

Eastern's campus.

"We met with other schools like Southern that are also facing labor problems and decided that

we needed to make a resolution," he said. "The sooner we get this situation resolved the better, but student government is remaining neutral in this situation."

Senate member Kyle Donash agreed with the resolution.

"My overall feeling is that it is a good idea. I think we have to represent the student voice," Donash said.

The senate elected its Member of the Semester, senior education major Dwight Nelson, who will be leaving Eastern next semester to student teach in East St. Louis to

complete his degree.

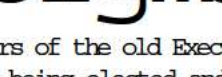
Jokingly, Nelson said he was shocked at the majority vote he received.

"I think this is the first time I was the majority. When I saw the item on the agenda, I never thought I would get it," Nelson said. "It means a lot to me. After four years on Student Senate, it gave me something positive to go out on."

Twenty-one new senate members were seated at the meeting, and re-elected current speaker of the senate, Bill Davidson.

The Men Sigma Pi

would like to thank the members of the old Executive Council for a great year
and congratulate the new members on being elected and wish them the best for the upcoming

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Vice-	Chaz Kuhn		Vice-	John Millner
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United Airline's bankruptcy instills fear in customers

By Tim Martin
CAMPUS EDITOR

Rhonda Salesberry, assistant to the dean of the graduate school, has a friend in Texas who won't be visiting for the holidays.

Her friend is afraid of flying. But it's not because of a phobia or Sept. 11.

It's because of United Airlines. "My friend has never, ever been nervous about flying," Salesberry said. "But when he heard United was \$20 million in debt, he felt that the maintenance would be cut, and he just doesn't feel comfortable enough."

Earlier this week, United Airlines, the number two airline in

the world, filed for bankruptcy. The company had been losing \$20 to \$22 million a day this month and reported over \$4 billion in losses over the past two years.

United operates about 1,700 flights a day and accounts for about 20 percent of flights in the United States.

Reasons for the downfall were a slumping economy, flawed business strategies and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

To counter its losses, the company filed for Chapter 11, which economics professor William Thompson said was only a simple reorganization.

"Frankly, Chapter 11 is not going to have a big impact. United will keep going," he said. "It just gives

businesses the ability to stay in business - United will still have major power."

Thompson said United, to fulfill guidelines of Chapter 11, had to submit a restructuring plan to the government outlining how it would get out of debt.

Although restructuring will most likely result in fewer flights, international students traveling home over Christmas break remain in high hopes.

"I think I miss my friends more than my family," said Petrus Ekblad, an international student from Sweden majoring in engineering. "I know it's going to be a rough time when I get back, because there are going to be lots and lots of parties."

Krishna Ignalaga, an international student from the Philippines, said she just wants to go home.

"Last year I didn't get to go home for Christmas, and it sucked," she said. "All my friends, who are all in different countries, only get to see each other over the holidays ... but I really look forward to seeing my family."

Tom Tong, a graduate student majoring in technology, has friends going back to China using United.

"Just from the commercials, United promises that it all works," he said. "I don't think the flights are going to be influenced."

Thompson said consumers uninformed on the topic tend to believe United not only has filed for bank-

ruptcy - though it never officially did - and holiday-season ticket holders may lose their flights.

Lisa Sheffield, corporate manager for IT Travel, which is based in Terre Haute, Ind., has handled airfare arrangements for 10 to 15 Eastern international students this year and can crush at least one rumor.

"So far we have found everyone supporting (United) since they filed for Chapter 11," she said. "No one has canceled the flights and no one has lost them."

Thompson said the whole situation has been blown out of proportion and that there is no real reason to worry.

"It's not as big of a deal as consumers think it is," he said.

Economics and social sciences majors may be adding classes

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

The Council on Academic Affairs will discuss the addition of a new course and revision of another at its meeting Thursday.

An economics course, Topics in Labor Economics, ECN 4890,

will be a study of topics such as labor history, collective bargaining, labor law, poverty, compensation structure, discrimination and wage differentials, the course proposal states. Other departments do not have a course that covers similar material.

An addition of one laboratory hour to social sciences 3400, Methods in the Social Studies in the Secondary School, is being proposed. The additional hour will provide instructional time to address curricular components now mandated by the state of Illinois for all teacher prepara-

tion programs, the proposal states.

The change is designed to meet the needs of students receiving social science teaching certification.

Items to be on the CAA agenda after the semester break include the proposal from Ronnie

Deedrick, student vice president for academic affairs, in favor of adding a student to department grade appeal procedures and a revised course proposal format.

The CAA will meet at 2 p.m. in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

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Speech contest honors former Eastern employee

By Brittany Potocnic
STAFF WRITER

The first place speaker in the Betty Balasi Wiley Speaking Contest walked away with \$250 awarded by the department of speech communication.

This was the first speaking contest to honor the late Betty Balasi Wiley, who was employed with Eastern for about 25 years, 16 of which she worked as a secretary for the speech communication department.

"For the first time, it was a pretty good turnout. Everyone here has

some social support," Dr. Terry Perkins, professor of speech communications, said.

The final round consisted of six speakers out of 22 applicants. The finalists were Megan Annerino, a freshman undecided major; Paul Beck, a freshman psychology major; Nina Marie Grant, a senior speech communication major; Adrienne Leschewski, a sophomore elementary education major; Matt Livesay, a junior sociology major; and Abigail Wood, a freshman elementary education major.

Leschewski was the first-place

winner for her speech on ground beef. She also will have a plaque engraved with her name placed in the speech communication department.

Grant placed second for her speech on creationism vs. evolution, receiving \$150. Livesay placed third for his speech on drug laws and rehabilitation, receiving \$100. All of the speakers in the final round will receive participation certificates.

"Overall I felt it went well. At first I was nervous but then I got a lot of positive feedback from the

audience," Leschewski said.

The contest was restricted to students in the basic oral communication course. Students delivered a seven to nine minute persuasive speech on a variety of topics such as abortion, mentoring, drug laws, school uniforms, evolution and creationism and mass distribution of beef.

"I knew it (the topic) was unique and different. I had a class on creationism and I knew it would be a very good persuasive topic," Grant said.

Students used different tech-

niques such as poster boards, props and transparencies to effectively deliver their material.

"I always look for a challenge and I thought it would be a challenge since the judges have heard speeches on abortion before," Wood said.

The speeches required a time keeper and were judged by a panel. Evaluations were completed by Jeri Hayes, a graduate student for the speech communication department, and professors of the speech communication department: Timothy Coombs, Rodney Marshall, and Gail Mason.

Promises: Student Government executives share thoughts on goals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in there, because they do need to be in there. That's what I campaigned on, and I'll go on about it forever until something does happen."

Marty Ruhaak
student vice president for public affairs

- Goals**
- ◆ Work with Project 21
 - ◆ Increase the activity of the Student Action Team which lobbies on Eastern's behalf at Springfield.

In his own words...

"My big thing was Project 21. I wanted to open a line of communication. I wanted the students' voices to be heard. This semester we had a Project 21 forum. We had a turnout of over 500 — we packed the ballroom. This semester the raids have not been as frequent, and there has been more emphasis on educating students. I think both sides are pleased, although the problems are far from over.

"Another topic was the budget. We've made recommenda-

tions to the Illinois Board of Higher Education for a little increase, if any. We've been lobbying Springfield. They keep telling us there's not much money to give, but we're going to continue to lobby. We have a trip to Springfield coming up Feb. 19. The more money we get out of lobbying, the less students have to pay for tuition. There is a lot of work coming up next semester, a lot to research. The most important things coming up are the budget and the tuition."

Lisa Flam
student vice president for student affairs

- Goals**
- ◆ Increase diversity
 - ◆ Gain community involvement and support for the Panther Card.

In her own words...

"Right now the Panther Card situation is being worked on by the External Relations Committee, we hope to have more done next semester.

"For diversity I'm currently working on a Unity Week which would be around the third or



Lisa Flam

Amy Leonard
student vice president for financial affairs

- Goals**
- ◆ A workable budget and student input in that process,
 - ◆ Working toward private donations, government grants, alumni donations and a freeze on tuition.

In her own words...

"The first goal I had was appointing people to the Apportionment Board because their time was up. So I had to recruit a bunch of new people. I was happy with the amount of applications that I got. The people we have now are very good participants, and we all went over the bylaws. Once I got into office, I wanted to assess the bylaws and look at

changes that needed to be made. I think we did a good job with that. They hadn't been updated in the past decade. We made a bunch of technical changes, including two bylaw changes that had to do with giving money to non fee-funded boards and allowing the athletics to buy clothing. I think we dealt with athletics asking for money pretty well. I know that was a real controversial issue.

"First semester isn't as crucial as second semester for Apportionment Board. In the past it hasn't even met first semester. I think the two meetings we've had have been pretty successful. Next semester I'm very confident that all the members are aware of what all the boards are, what they do and where the money goes. By February, we will make some budget cuts, which will be difficult because everyone needs money now the budget is so low. Hopefully, we'll be able to give them what they want. I would also like to put on a forum that deals with lobbying and why we need to get involved in Springfield."



Amy Leonard

Victim's families meet with governor


CHICAGO (AP) — In a sometimes emotional exchange, dozens of relatives of murder victims met with Gov. George Ryan Wednesday morning to talk about the governor's plan to grant clemency to some people on death row.

This was the second meeting the governor has held with victims' relatives before he announces his decisions.

Some of the 75 to 100 relatives showed anger, said a participant. "They said he's more for prisoners than for victims' families," said Rhonda Bussle of Chicago who left the closed meeting for a break.

Bussle, whose 13-year-old son, Rhenardo, was murdered in 1991, said she told the governor, "My son was killed in 13 seconds," yet she is still waiting for the final decision on the death penalty handed down against the convicted killer, Terrence Brooks.

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CAMPUS CLIPS

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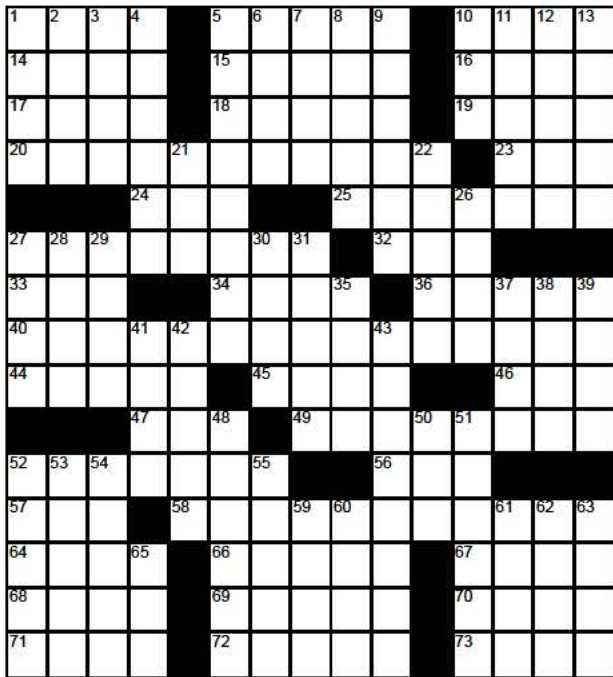
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1031

- ACROSS**
- 1 Representatives from farm states, e.g.
- 5 Belafonte or Lewis
- 10 Not handle gently
- 14 Medical symptom
- 15 Hercules
- 16 Pilot's setting, perhaps
- 17 Madonna's "La Bonita"
- 18 Go in circles
- 19 Peculiar: Prefix
- 20 Author who'll never make a name for himself
- 23 Publicity, slangily
- 24 Can opener
- 25 Aeschylus' "Oresteia," e.g.
- 27 DNA source
- 32 TV's Science Guy
- 33 Get rid of
- 34 Yours, in Tours
- 36 Slugger's opportunity
- 40 Smithsonian attraction
- 44 Kind of opposite
- 45 Hoosegow
- 46 Nutritionist's fig.
- 47 In honor of
- 49 Cineplex feature
- 52 One who loves a good bouquet
- 56 "You don't mean me?!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Punishment for a sailor, maybe
- 2 Punishment for a sailor, maybe
- 3 Northern capital
- 4 Innocent
- 5 Exhibitionist
- 6 Frau's mate
- 7 Prefix with sexual
- 8 Singer Bonnie
- 9 Apprentice
- 10 When Labor Day is celebrated in France
- 11 Part of a TV feed
- 12 Kind of operation
- 13 Play _____

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

S S V S S E N T G S I E S
E E N X A D E E N I V S E
A X E S Y T I A V S G N B
R E X O B M O D V H S V N I
 I O W R E N I N I A
R A B X C V N S R O F
V D R R I I S R V T O P
S I N O T I S F O I T R I P S
I V B I V I O I V E X V
 E A N T I O O D E N E G
A G O T I R I B V I
X N I R E L I R M I S O H G
O I D I I I B R O V T S I
O I N V N V W E H H S V R
H S V W I R V H S O T G B



Puzzle by Dave and Diane Epperson

- 21 Draft outlet
- 22 Money of Qatar
- 26 "My So-Called Life" actor Jared
- 27 Show shock
- 28 Fair
- 29 Playwright Simon
- 30 Part of the Winnebago nation
- 31 Church galleries
- 35 "The doctor _____"
- 37 Outlying district, for short
- 38 2000 Broadway hit
- 39 Peter, e.g.
- 41 Slew
- 42 Fetters
- 43 Peak-to-peak transports
- 48 Move, as a picture
- 50 Inner ear?
- 51 Selling points?
- 52 Feelings
- 53 Occupied
- 54 Needle
- 55 "Bolero" composer
- 59 "Mon _____!"
- 60 Start of some inn names
- 61 TV's warrior princess
- 62 Group for Liz Taylor
- 63 Some bar supplies
- 65 Family girl

Court declares school funds illegal

Teacher receives gift of marijuana

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Ohio Supreme Court on Wednesday declared the state's school funding system unconstitutional for the third time in 11 years and ordered lawmakers to find an equitable way to pay for schools.

In each ruling, the justices have said the state's method of funding schools, which relies heavily on property taxes, was unconstitutional because it favored rich districts over poor.

State officials have estimated the cost of meeting the court's requirements would reach \$1.2 billion a year.

In the majority opinion from Wednesday's 4-3 ruling, Justice Paul Pfeifer wrote that the court has been patient with the Legislature's attempts to enact a "complete systematic overhaul" of the funding system. That overhaul was ordered in the court's first decision.

While the Legislature has increased funding, benefiting many of the state's 1.8

million children in public schools, lawmakers have not focused on that order to completely change the way schools are funded, he wrote.

"Today we reiterate that that is what is needed, not further nibbling at the edges," Pfeifer wrote. "We are not unmindful of the difficulties facing the state, but those difficulties do not trump the constitution."

Gov. Bob Taft and legislators had asked the court to reconsider another ruling it made in September 2001 in which the justices said the school funding system could be constitutional if Ohio increased its aid to schools.

The court agreed to reconsider that ruling but also ordered mediation between the state and the coalition of schools that filed the school funding lawsuit in 1991. Talks broke down after about two months.

Pfeifer wrote that the court realizes that the Legislature can't spend money it

doesn't have.

"Nevertheless, we reiterate that the constitutional mandate must be met. The Constitution protects us whether the state is flush or destitute," he wrote.

William Phillis, director of the coalition of school districts that sued the state over the school funding formula, had not yet seen the ruling and had no immediate comment.

Representatives of the governor and legislative leaders did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

The lawsuit's main argument is that the funding system is lopsided in favor of rich districts because of its reliance on property taxes.

Last year, \$1,190 in local property taxes were raised to pay for each student attending schools in rural Meigs Local School District. Residents of Solon in the Cleveland suburbs raised \$7,585 per student from local taxes.

HOLYOKE, Mass. (AP) — The Department of Social Services is looking into a possible case of child abuse after a 4-year-old girl brought her teacher a small bag of marijuana as a gift.

When Head Start Early Childhood Center teacher Iris Galvez asked where she got the gift Monday, the girl said she got it "from her mommy," according to a police report obtained by the Union-News of Springfield.

The girl's mother, Shelin Colon, 32, said she doesn't have any drugs in the house and doesn't know where the girl might have gotten the marijuana, police said.

No charges have been filed.

A report of suspected child abuse or neglect has been filed with Social Services, a department spokesman said.

Suzanne L. Parker, deputy director of the area Head Start program, declined to comment.

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FOUND: Nice calculator in Buzzard Hall on Friday before break- come to Student Publications Desk and tell make and model and it will be returned.

00

PERSONALS

Congratulations to Jana Tomasewski of Delta Zeta on becoming the new Sigma Phi Epsilon Sweetheart. Your sisters are happy for you!

12/12

PERSONALS

Kristen Brueckner of Alpha Sigma Alpha- Congratulations on getting lavaliered to Tim Conrad of Delta Chi! Your sisters are so happy for you!

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The Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council are sponsoring Alcohol Awareness Week. Please be careful.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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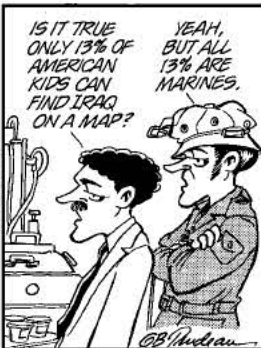
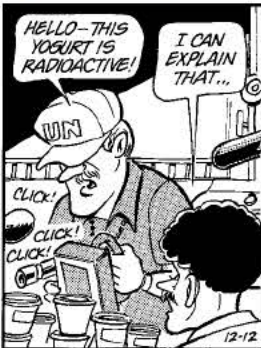
DOONESBURY

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



Blue Crew to hold informational

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS REPORTER

Lantz Arena will be filled with Blue Crew members this season during the Panthers basketball road through the Ohio Valley Conference this season.

The Blue Crew is a student fan group made to support both men's and women's basketball teams during home games at Lantz Arena.

An informational meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday in the Seventh Street Underground for anyone interested in joining the Blue Crew this season.

"We want those interested to attend this meeting so we can talk about seating location, get e-mail addresses and hand out t-shirts to those who are committed to attending home games," said Dave Kidwell Eastern athletic director for sports information/marketing. The Blue Crew was a part of the 2000-2001 Panthers that won the OVC Men's Basketball Tournament and qualified for the NCAA

Tournament, but wasn't involved at all last season.

During the 2000-01 season, Eastern went 13-0 at home and won by an average margin of 13 points per game.

This season, the 2002-2003 Panthers (3-5) have won two straight home games with the next contest in Lantz Arena Dec. 30 against Northern Illinois University.

"The Blue Crew was an integral part of the success of the men's team two years ago," Kidwell said. "We want to get that enthusiasm back again."

This fall, Eastern head coach Rick Samuels made presentations at meetings with the Residence Hall Association and the Student Government.

"We had over 50 people who responded with interest so we're encouraged that we'll have a large turnout at Thursday's meeting," Kidwell said.

Kidwell said he would be disappointed unless 30-50 people attend the meeting.

Mascot name selected

By Matt Meinheit
SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern's mascot finally has an official name Dave Kidwell said.

However, the new name of the mascot will not be known until the first home basketball game of the spring semester.

"We're going to do something at the first home game Jan. 16," Kidwell said. "So we will make the official announcement then."

Eastern's men's basketball team will host Ohio Valley Conference preseason favorite Murray State.

Last week a committee, led by Kidwell, chose the name of the mascot based on suggestions he received from students. Kidwell did not receive as many suggestions as he hoped, but the committee was still able to choose a suitable name.

"We got enough (suggestions) to make a good decision," Kidwell said. "But with everything the more the merrier."

Kidwell said the committee was able to meet its main criteria for the new name of the mascot, selecting a name that is non-gender specific.

"It's one that's suitable for both genders," he said. "We thought it was appropriate."

According to Kidwell, the committee came to the decision with little disagreement.

"I think everybody was agreeable," Kidwell said. "It's nice when everybody agrees."



MATT MEINHEIT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eastern's mascot will be announced during the first home game of the spring semester.

Task: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"Pat Dowty in the 133-pound class has really been wrestling well," Vaughn said. "Mike Stanley has won a plethora of matches and has been a bright spot for us."

Both Dowty and fellow 133-pounder Stanley were 4-2 in the UNI Open.

While the Panthers had a tough go at the UNI Open, Northwestern found better luck with two of its wrestlers placing high.

John Giacche took home second-place in the 141-pound class and Brendan Curran was third at 184 pounds.

Even though momentum and victories are not on the Panthers side, Vaughn said the meet with Northwestern is not a must win.

"It's not so much that we need a victory, but that we get a complete team effort," Vaughn said.

After the meet against the Wildcats, the Panthers will be off until Dec. 28 when they will compete in the challenging Midlands

Tournament.

"We're going to get a little bit of a break and then we'll go to the Midlands Tournament," Vaughn said. "This is the toughest tourney we will be in all year."

The Midlands Tournament is an open invitational so Vaughn said the Panthers do not yet know their opponents.

"(Midlands) is so amazing," Vaughn said. "You can face schools in the top twenty or even former Olympic champions. The Midlands is a very prestigious tournament."

Stevens: Armstrong fought all odds to beat cancer CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

To anyone who disagrees that Armstrong didn't deserve the honor this year, take a look at three other possible candidates:

Barry Bonds - bad teammate, never won a championship and rarely makes time for fans.

Tom Brady - not the best quarterback in the NFL, let alone best player

Sarah Hughes - Yes, she's the woman of the Winter Olympics, but she was in fourth and had to have everybody in the top three fall to win.

Without a doubt, Armstrong is the Sportsman of the Year and deserves to go down as the greatest athlete of all-time, but all he wants is to be remembered as the most important cancer survivor ever.

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Matthew Stevens
SPORTS REPORTER

SI makes right choice with award

I don't normally do this, but I would like to commend *Sports Illustrated* for its choice of its annual Sportsman of the Year award. This year, SI decided to give this prestigious honor to American cyclist Lance Armstrong. My initial response was, "Don't you think it's about time?"

Sports Illustrated finally got off its high horse and started listening to the likes of Rick Reilly when it came down to picking a Sportsman of the Year.

Lance Armstrong is not just a cyclist anymore. More than an athlete, Armstrong is a world-wide hope giver throughout the world. Three-hundred pieces of mail come to Armstrong every week from people who are struggling to survive cancer and afraid to die, and Lance answers each of them. He calls it, "obligation of the cured."

On Oct. 9, 1996, Lance held a press conference to tell the world he was diagnosed with Testicular cancer and had a 60 percent chance of dying during his treatment. A 60 percent CHANCE OF DYING! He went through chemotherapy that doctors were quietly saying would kill him. When it was detected by his physician, Armstrong had 12 tumors on his lungs and two on his brain. However, Armstrong is an example of how miracles never cease to exist.

Six years later, Armstrong is the only man in the history of the planet to win the Tour de France four straight times. And he's won each of them by a larger margin every year.

This is why the biggest cycling event in the world should be officially changed to the Lance Armstrong Invitational because every other cyclist is playing for second place and they publicly admit it!

For those of you who don't know, the Tour de France is the most brutal sporting event that exists today. It's a 5,400-mile bike race over 20 days with three climbs up the French Alps averaging about 300 miles each.

Armstrong treats that type of competition like it's a walk in the park because it doesn't compare to ingesting a trio of chemical "cocktails" that makes you lose lots of lung capacity.

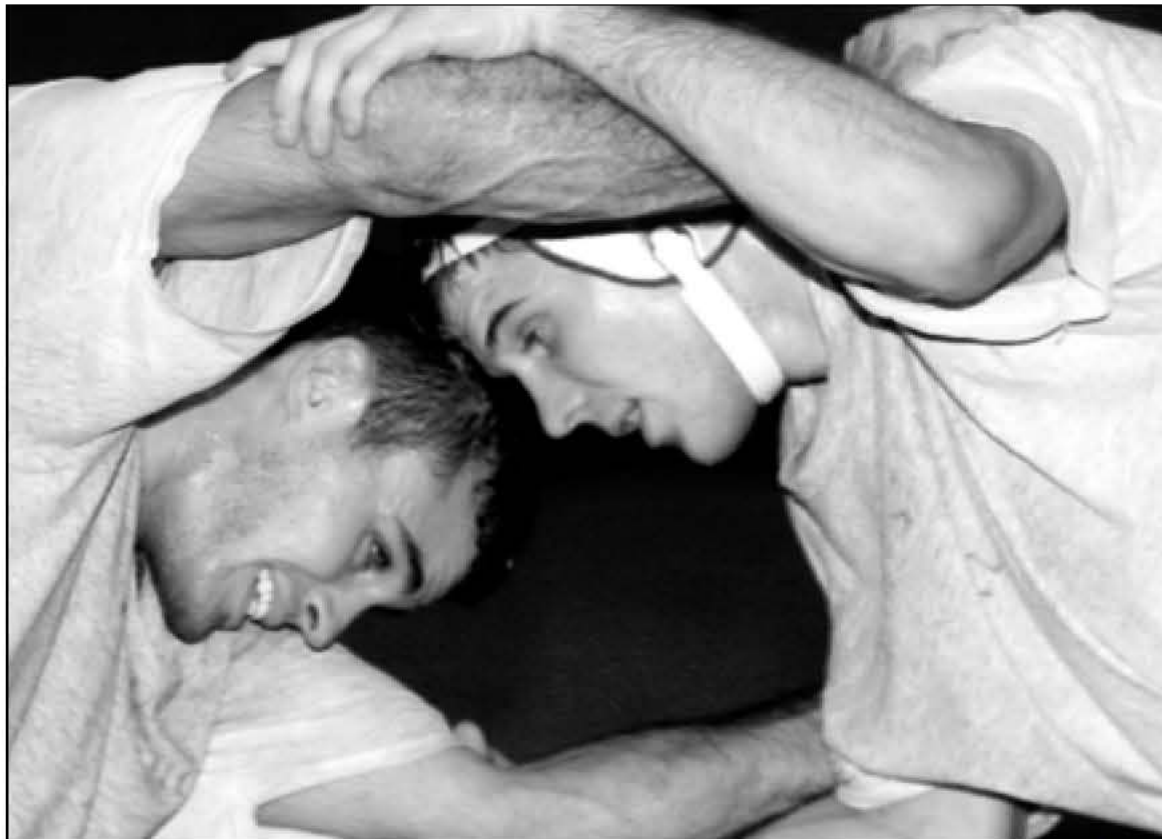
The only possible thing keeping Armstrong from being Sportsman of the Year was the French media printing several stories on his possible usage of anabolic steroids.

However, that was deemed to be a vicious rumor that was proved incorrect because unlike Major League Baseball, the European Cycling Foundation requires random urine samples before events and Lance is unfairly picked and passes the test every year.

SEE STEVENS ♦ Page 10

WRESTLING

Panther wrestlers face tough task



Senior Frank DeFillipis (left) and sophomore Andy Coyle grapple during practice Wednesday. DeFillipis is 2-3 for the season while Coyle is 2-2.

STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

By Michael Gilbert
STAFF WRITER

The Eastern wrestling team will travel to Evanston this weekend to take on the Northwestern Wildcats in a dual meet match.

The Panthers come into the match against Northwestern with a 0-1 dual-meet record. Eastern dropped a tough 19-16 decision to Eastern Michigan Nov. 20. The Panthers are struggling after a disappointing showing in the 52nd annual Northern Iowa Open last weekend, but Chicagoland's "Big Show" shouldn't take the Panthers lightly on Saturday.

"Matt Veach is on fire," assistant coach Tony Vaughn said. "He really grinded it out last week in Iowa. He showed what he was all about by competing in eight matches in one day."

The 165-pound junior from Springfield won seven of those matches to finish in fifth-place in his weight class.

Veach is not the only Panther who has been on a hot streak. Vaughn said Pat Dowty and Mike Stanley have performed strong in the recent weeks.

SEE TASK ♦ Page 10

SWIMMING

Eastern preps for College Swim Forum



CAITLIN BULLIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The swimming teams will travel to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., for the College Swim Forum.

By Amber Williams
SENIOR WRITER

The men's and women's swim teams won't be facing the harsh Midwestern weather this holiday season.

The teams will be traveling to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., for a 10-day training and competition session known as the College Swim Forum.

"It is kind of a training trip. There is some competition there," head coach Ray Padovan said.

Over 2,000 swimmers and divers will attend the forum for intense training and to have a little competition, Padovan said. Eastern's teams will not be competing in many competitions so they can concentrate on the training.

Since the swimmers do not have classes to worry about during the trip, Padovan said he is having them do four hours of practice every day.

Padovan has been bringing the swim teams to the forum for over 20 years and has always found it to be helpful.

"We train hard, we come back, and we see people going to the next level," Padovan said.

While the trip to Florida is not

mandatory because students cover part of the cost themselves. Padovan said it is an important trip, since they only have six weeks of competition left when they return from winter break.

The competitions at the forum will be for both swimmers and divers and will include a mile ocean swim.

The men's (4-2-1) and women's (5-2) teams will be going to the competition with one more win under their belts.

Both teams were able to swim past Butler Monday, with the men's team finishing 162-84 and the women's team finishing 160-84.

Judging by the previous meet times of Butler's team, Padovan said the Eastern team was expecting a win.

"Butler was not as strong of a team," Padovan said.

Senior Josh Kercheval finished first in two events for the men's team, winning the 200 back (2:00.55) and 400 IM (4:11.73).

Junior Jordan Sherbrook led the women's team by winning three individual events. Sherbrooke finished first in the 1,000 freestyle (10:57.72) 100 breast (1:10.97) and the 200 breast (2:33.51).

PAYTON AWARD WATCH

Sophomore QB boasts best numbers

Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part series about the top three vote getters for the Walter Payton Award, the Division I-AA equivalent of the Heisman Trophy announced Dec. 19).

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS REPORTER

In the regular season, Grambling State quarterback Bruce Eugene had almost 600 yards and seven touchdowns more than any other Walter Payton Award candidate but he's not a lock for the hardware.

Eugene could be an example of

Poised for the Payton award

A look at the top three candidates for the Walter Payton Award.



Part 2: Bruce Eugene, Grambling

discrimination in the voting when the winner is announced Dec. 19.

"I think that if it were a fair and just world, Bruce wins hands down, no question about it," Grambling State head coach Doug

Williams said. "Ain't nobody in the country can throw the ball better than Bruce Eugene."

The first uncontrollable hurdle in the path of Eugene's road to the Walter Payton is he is a red shirt-sophomore and only had 12 career starts with the Tigers.

The voters may not want to vote for such a young player because an underclassman has only received the award twice.

"I think it would be very unfortunate if that becomes an issue because there's nothing in the rule book that says you have to be a junior or senior to win the award,"

Williams said. "Since there's no rule against it and its 2002, its a time to be fair."

Another factor voters may consider is the speculation that Eugene is the product of an incredible offensive system run by Williams. Williams was a NFL quarterback who won a Super Bowl with the Washington Redskins.

"Bruce Eugene is not the product of a system because this isn't Florida, we don't have a specific system at Grambling," Williams

SEE NUMBERS ♦ Page 11

Despite low Latino enrollment, Latino Greeks on the rise

Latinos finding a place on campus

by Josh Roberson
Staff writer

Many Latino students arrive on Eastern's campus hoping to find a group of fellow Latino's that remind them of the communities that they left back home. However, for some this is not possible due to the low visibility of the 230 plus Latino's on Eastern's campus.

"It sucks that I can't be around the people I'm used to back home," said Luz Ramos, sophomore elementary education major. "The Latino's that you do see down here are rather distant also."

Many Latino's who feel there is no home base for Latino's on campus are left to pursue other options.

Roberto Luna, freshman economics major, chose a Greek organization that made him feel at home when he first arrived.

"I met the guys at the fraternity night at Carman Hall and I thought they were some cool guys," Luna said.

"The more I got to know about them, the more I wanted to join."

Luna, who is of Mexican decent chose to join the predominantly white Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity.

But then again Luna never knew that there were two Latino fraternities on campus that could have made him feel at home just like the Phi Kaps did.

Latino Greek organizations have been around for over the past 25 years. Four in particular have graced Eastern's presence over the past five years.

The Alpha Phi chapter of Lambda Theta Phi became the first recognized Latino Greek organization at Eastern with its acceptance into Eastern's Interfraternity Council (IFC) in 1998. Their principles are to promote scholarship, Latin unity, respect for all cultures and brotherhood. They've helped with the Special Olympics Family

Festival in Mattoon and served as interpreters for non-English speaking Latinos' in Tuscola. This was done not only to give community service, but to also heighten the image of Latino culture and offer another positive role model from Eastern's population.

These men follow the same recruiting and rush procedures as every other fraternity does in the IFC.



Members of Sigma Lambda Beta and Lambda Theta Phi Fraternity's are among the wave of Latino Greek Organizations on campus.
Photo courtesy of Sigma Lambda Beta

The "Lambdas" conduct a week-long rush where students come to daily events, which allow them to learn more about their future brothers. The week culminates with a possible bid offer to the prospective student who now has the option to undergo a four-to-six week process where they become active members of the fraternity.

Jose Ochoa, a senior Spanish major and vice president of Lambda Theta Phi, said this process helps build united and strong men. Ochoa, who also co-founded the Alpha Phi chapter, said this group of 12 men stands out due to their closeness and respect for one another.

"I'm an extended family member in all of my brother's families," Ochoa said.

Lambda Theta Alpha's Beta Chi chapter received Recognized Student Organization (RSO) status in the

fall of 2000, thus making them the first Latina sorority on Eastern's campus and also one of the first chapters of Lambda Theta Alpha in the state of Illinois. This diverse group of seven ladies helps each other to accomplish their empowering goals of maintaining scholarly excellence and providing cultural awareness. Their services to the Douglas County Community Health Center, Charleston Convalesce Center and Charleston Teen Reach have helped them become better community activists also.

They stand out due to their non-traditional rush process to determine future sisters. First and most importantly, a GPA is required in order to become an interested member. All freshmen have to wait a semester before becoming an interested member.

please see **Latinogreeks** page 3

LASO to improve minority population

by Avian Carrasquillo
Editor in Chief

With a low latino student population on college campuses nationwide. The Latin American Student Organization at Eastern has taken a proactive approach to making a change by forming a high school committee this semester.

The L.A.S.O High School Committee meets each week prior to the L.A.S.O meeting to discuss ways to serve as a role models to the latino high school population. So far the committee has mentored students from Benito Juarez High School in Chicago on a recent bus trip to Eastern in late November.

Diana Ruiz, the chair of the high school committee said the recent

trip went well.

"The students were really attentive to us. We went bowling. We talked about myths like you have to be rich to come to college, or if you have a child you can't attend college. We talked to them about financial aid options, and how to fill out a FAFSA form. We traded phone numbers with them and helped them apply to college the following week of their trip. We plan on keeping in touch with them to help get to college, even if it's not at Eastern.

Currently seven members are on the committee, but other L.A.S.O members often attend meetings. The committee plans to work with other high schools in the future, and plans to have committee members speak to

their own high schools and high schools near their homes over break to spread the message that college is a possibility for them.

Isabel Castro, an advisor for the Latin American Student Organization says that she is impressed by the work the committee has done. "This is something L.A.S.O has wanted to do for a while, these students were very proactive and have really done a good job with the program," castro said.

Despite an overall increase in freshman enrollment numbers this year, Latino students only showed slight progress. The number rose from 67 to 70 students this year.

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avian_carrasquillo@yahoo.com

Profile

Latin American Student
Organization

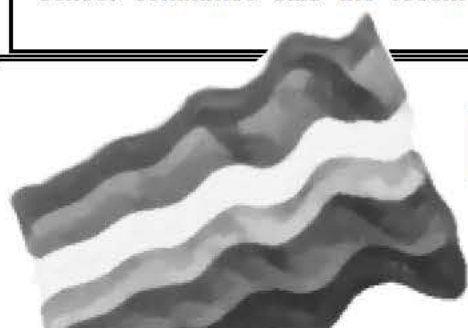
Founded: 1997

Members: Currently 10+

Meetings:
Spring semester meetings are yet to be determined.

Contact: Isabel Castro, Advisor
581-6692

Email: eiulaso@eiu.edu
website:
www.eiu.edu/~stdtlife/rso/cultural/laso/laso.htm



Pride Profile

page 3



Museum hopes to go 'beyond words'

page 2

Staff Editorial

Feeling a little out of place

by Alicia Spates
Staff writer

Have you ever felt out of place? Or like you were on the outside looking in? Now, have you ever felt out of place because you thought it had to do with your race or ethnic background? Minorities would supposedly answer "yes," but the majority may also feel this way.

I want you to think about the last time you felt out of place because of your race. Maybe you were outnumbered or just didn't fit in. How did you feel?

I'll tell you how I felt. I felt alone, uncomfortable, and different. Being apart of any honors program, as a minority, is an uneasy task. Take for example the National Society of Collegiate Scholars program that I belong to. There are about 387 members of Eastern students total in the program. Each person is e-mailed about our monthly meetings, but as far as our last meeting, only about 20 people (out of 387) actually showed up, including me, the only "noticeable" minority. And by "noticeable" I mean by skin color/appearance. Though I was "noticeable," I also felt like the most invisible person there. I was the fourth person to arrive, and I sat in the front row. When the meeting began, I noticed everyone sat behind me, rather than beside me, but I didn't pay it any mind because I knew not to take it personal.

I'll admit, I felt awkward about being outnumbered drastically and maybe there wasn't anything to feel awkward about, but that's how I felt.

I'm sure others have been in similar situations and felt these similar feelings, maybe even in small-sized classes. And I'm sure it can be the other way around, for instance, a Caucasian person may feel uncomfortable at a Black Student Union meeting or a Hispanic could feel out of place in a predominantly white neighborhood.

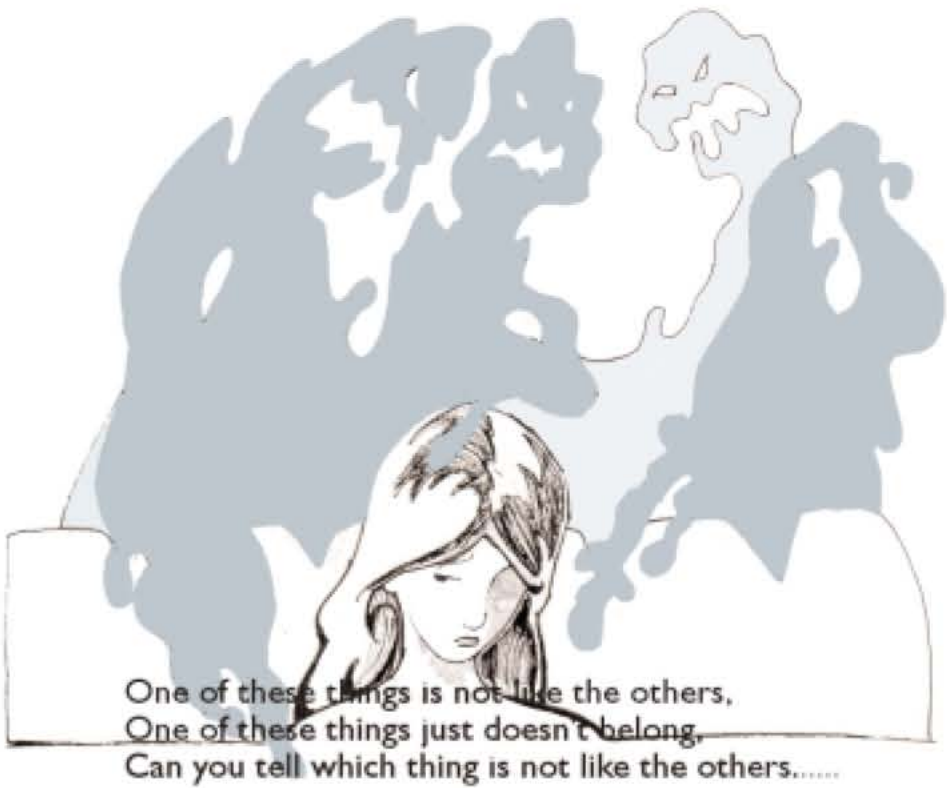
Nonetheless, we are all humans and as humans we have the right and normalcy to feel awkward in such situations. But honestly, feeling weird in situations has come a long way for minorities to not even be apart of such situations. I believe that if a person has pride in their racial and ethnic status, then that will overshadow all the differences around them and maybe even take part in breaking down racial barriers.

email Alicia at: acspates@eu.edu

Letters to the Editor.

All letters must include the author's name and contact information, and must not exceed 300 words. Not all letters will be published and we reserve the right to edit for spacing. All letters to the editor can be sent to: MinorityToday@hotmail.com

The opinions expressed in the editorial do not necessarily reflect the views of the Minority Today staff.



It's that time of the semester, Minority Today wishes you luck on your finals. Study Hard!!

Both Editorial Cartoons by Joaquin Ochoa

Museum of Oppression
learns from Hate



by Joaquin Ochoa
Managing editor

The Housing & Dining MultiCultural Committee is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Beyond Words: Museum of Oppression and is looking for volunteers. The four day event, being held in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Ballroom begins on January 27th and ends on the 31st. It highlights many oppressed groups and ideas through exhibits. There will be thirteen

exhibits this year ranging from many topics such as: African America, Latino, Asian, Holocaust, Body Image, Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender, and Immigrant experience among others. The event was last held this past spring and had an excellent turnout according to Tanya Kozlowski, who is volunteering for a second time. See ad for more information.

email Joaquin at: joa_kin8a13@hotmail.com

If you would like to help educate others
on issues of oppression & ignorance

Then help support the 2nd annual-

Beyond Words:
The Museum of Oppression

In the Grand Ballroom on
January 27th-31st, 2003

Contact Crystal @7692 or Tanya @7698

Brought to you by
Housing & Dining MultiCultural Committee



Upper Left: Those who attended the Museum of Oppression last year had the opportunity to write their feelings in the "Wall of Reflection" Above: Volunteers greeted enthusiastically

photos provided by Tanya Kozlowski

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Profile: A great source of Pride

by Ryan Vila
Staff Writer

On its tenth anniversary, Pride is still promoting alternative lifestyle awareness on campus. Kelly Keyes, president of Pride, said, "The goal of Pride is not a support group but rather a place where we all get together and discuss issues that happen on campus and feel accepted for an hour or two."

The organization has done this in the past by working with residence halls and panel presentations for health education classes in Lantz Gym. They also celebrated a gay awareness week to heighten awareness on campus.

Keyes has stated that while it is a rebuilding year because of change in their executive board, there are many events upcoming in the spring. She

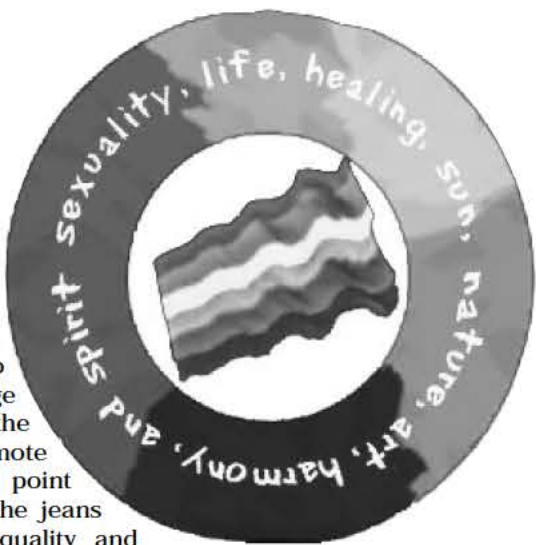
says that the week is most likely to occur in early April and that there will be a surprise big event in the quad.

Keyes said, "On January 22, we will most likely hold a day of silence where students dress in black for a day and be silent". She stated that it is a visible silent protest for equality. Pride's message is not only limited to Eastern's campus but also off. Keyes stated that the group will go to the Midwest Bi-Sexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Ally College Conference at Ohio State University from February 14 to February 16 to work with other schools such as Illinois State University. She said that some Pride members know some members of Illinois State University's Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual and Transgender group and that it would be good for

both groups.

When asked of her own goals, Keyes said, "I want to bring back Jeans for a Day to support and gauge the reaction of the campus and promote awareness and to point out the fact that the jeans are to support equality and does not mean one is gay".

Doug Howell, the advisor for Pride, said that the Jeans for a Day is ideal for support. He said, "Membership is good but having allies are important because the message of awareness is better received". Howell also wants to increase awareness and to attempt to make the campus more acceptable so all people can be more free to be who they are. Of Pride, Howell said, "It



is not a support group but more of a social and programming type group".

For Spring 2003, Pride will meet Wednesday nights at 8:00 pm starting on January 15, and the room is still to be determined. For more information and contact information, the Pride website is www.eiu.edu/~eiupride.

email Ryan at:
manofsteal38@yahoo.com

Profile
Pride
Founded: October 1992

Members: Currently 30+

Meetings:
Spring semester meetings are every Wednesday at 8pm in the Martinsville Room in the 3rd floor of the Martin Luther King University Union.

Contact:
Co-President
Kelly Keyes
581-3814

Email:
eiupride@www.eiu.edu

Website:
www.eiu.edu/~eiupride

Cultural influences can lead to drinking

by Alicia Spates
Staff Writer

Do Eastern students drink as much as people perceive?

The answer is no.

According to Eric Davidson, assistant director for health education and promotion at Eastern's Health Education Resource Center, Eastern students drink less than what most people assume.

The slogan of "0-4 and No More" was created from data collected from random Eastern students in spring of 2000. This data has been compared and shown that it coincides with statewide and national statistics of col-

lege drinking, Davidson said. "0-4 and No More" states that a majority of Eastern students drink 4 or less drinks per week.

Two-thirds of Eastern drinkers have not driven while under the influence, he said.

Davidson said that African-Americans, representing 6 percent of the data collected of the Eastern surveys, drink less than Caucasians in terms of "quantity and as well as frequency."

Hispanics, making up 1.5 percent of the survey data, generally drink more than Caucasians, Davidson said.

Asians totaled 0.5 percent as part of

the collected survey data, while other minority groups made up 1 percent, Davidson said.

Davidson said African-Americans drink as a coping mechanism.

Andre Raymond, an African-American junior journalism major, said, "I drink for two reasons. Yes, I drink for coping, but I also drink because I feel the buzz at a party."

Davidson said, Caucasians drink for social reasons, but not necessarily because of peer pressure, but more from what is expected from their peers. Hispanics generally drink due to their heritage. Their culture influences their drinking behavior, he said.

As far as gender-based, men drink more than women, Davidson said, and men tend to suffer more from the consequences of drinking.

"We're seeing a change in the trends," said Davidson. He added that women are catching up with men and that it is becoming more common to see women drinking. A reason behind this is because alcohol industries are beginning to market to women, he said.

Krista Davis, a freshman undeclared major, said, "I don't think females are ahead (of men in drinking), but equal."

Email Alicia at: acspates@eiu.edu

Latinogreeks: Latino organizations encourage all to join

continued from page 1

Next, they undergo vigorous interviewing sessions that allow the prospective member to not only learn about the sorority, but to learn about the important role that each lady will play.

The group of prospective members forms their own RSO called the Interested Ladies of Lambda Theta Alpha. This interest group meets weekly and conducts the everyday duties that an active member does which range from community service to educational and fund raising events. Also there is no determined length of how long this process will take.

"You are apart of Lambda Theta Alpha from day one," says Jennifer Rodriguez, senior Spanish major and co-founder of the Beta Chi chapter. "No interested person is less than the group, and they are more than just pledges to us."

Four men founded the EIU Colony of Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity in the fall of 2001, with the hope of laying down the foundation for a thriving brotherhood on campus. They share the four principles of brotherhood, scholarship, community service, and cultural awareness. They also believe in the values of fairness, opportunity, and the equality of all men no matter who they are. They regularly participate with Special Olympics

and Big Brothers/Little Sisters to benefit the Coles County community. They have also sponsored an International Dance

Night where dances of different cultures were showcased to bring cultural diversity to Eastern.

Sigma Lambda Beta's rush process rivals that of Lambda Theta Phi as they conduct informationals for interested students. This allows the student to get a glimpse of what being a member is. After deciding to become a prospective member, the students undergo a learning process in preparation of upholding the high ideals that Sigma Lambda Beta represent.

Neftali Droz, Sigma Lambda Beta member, said the pledging process is more of an educational one where the prospective member will gain knowledge that goes beyond the classroom.

"We prepare gentlemen for life after graduation," Droz said. "We are looking for dedicated self-made men that want to help not only themselves, but their community also," said Droz.

Alpha Sigma Omega is a relatively new sorority, being only in existence since 1997. The Epsilon chapter of Alpha Sigma Omega was established at Eastern in January of 1999. Just like the previous three organizations, Alpha Sigma Omega stresses quality over quantity. With only three members, this group has made the lifetime com-



Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority and Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity members pose for the camera.
Photo courtesy of Sigma Lambda Beta

mitment to provide a support system for each other as they each go through life's experiences. One of those experiences is the struggle that many Greek organizations undergo when starting out.

"Pan-Hell takes away a big number of freshmen as soon as they arrive here," president Tanya Kozlowski said. "After that what do you have left?"

Kozlowski, a grad student, also said

the rush process is centered more towards the person joining the group than the group adding another member.

Although these organizations are predominantly Latino by tradition, all are encouraged to join these groups, which are represented by numerous nationalities of the world.

email Josh at:
faqslapazz@hotmail.com

Jay - Z shows versatility

The Gift & The Curse worthy follow up to first installment of 'Blueprint'

by Tim Edwards
Staff writer

The new Jay Z album "Blueprint 2" is a double CD in which Hova decided to switch things up. He shows how he can be more versatile in his rhymes.

One song that shows this is "Guns and Roses" in which he flows easy over a rock beat. This is a song featuring Lenny Kravitz ripping the chords.

A rapper rhyming over a rock beat isn't an easy thing to do. Many come short on putting the song together. Jigga completes this task like a pro.

This shouldn't be a problem for him after he did a live album with The Roots. Another song "Hovi Baby" gives you the effect of having a live band for the beat. This could be a possible single in the future from the LP thanks to a catchy hook, which is radio friendly. Mix show DJ's have gave the song some airplay.

The lead single "Bonnie and Clyde 03" has been marked with controversy over the guest appearance of Beyonce Knowles. The rumor is that they are a couple even though they both deny the allegations. Jay Z and Beyonce are sticking to the story that they are just friends.

The second controversy comes over the sample of a Tupac song "Me and my Girlfriend." Before Tupac died he spoke of his dislike for Jay Z. Jay Z said he never met Tupac and the Tupac beef was probably because of his friendship with Biggie. Whoever was down with Biggie was an enemy of Tupac. He did receive approval from Tupac's mother and Suge Knight to use the sample. Regardless of the controversy the song is steady climbing the billboard charts.

On the "Blueprint 2" (same as the title of LP) song the battle between Jay Z continues as Jay Z questions Nas' involvement in the community. Jay Z speaks about how he donated a portion of his concert fee to the World Trade Center and other charitable causes. He called out Nas on where he was when the community needed him.

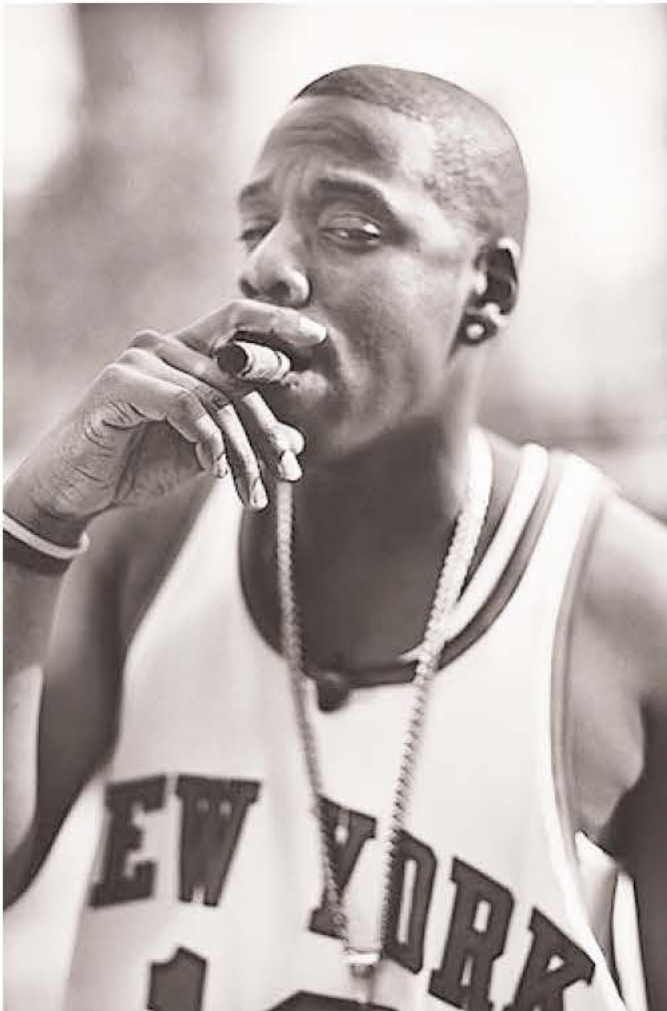
Jay Z also questions Nas' consistency. He also thanks Nas for letting him know who really was a true friend in a mocking way.

In the album he goes into detail about how everyone tried to ride on the Jay Z dis bandwagon after Nas. A lot of the artists were the same people who he helped get into the business.

Jay Z said how he didn't understand how his mentor Jay O turned on him.

In "A Dream" Jay Z tells in a story how his friend came to him in a dream. He told him to continue to fight the battle. This was one of the most personal songs on the album. Featuring Notorious B.I.G. and Faith Evans this song could be the next single on the album. You see a much more vulnerable Jigga on this song compared to the pimpin' and hustling songs.

I believe the "Blueprint 2" showed Jay Z's



Jay - Z file photo
photo courtesy of RollingStone

CD Review

Jay-Z: The Blueprint2
The Gift & The Curse

Label: Rocafella Records
Genre: Hip Hop

growth as an artist. I think he did it more for making good music than selling a lot of albums. For traditional Jay Z's fans there are still party tracks on the CD. This album showed more diversity on topics than any other Jay Z albums.

e-mail Tim at: clockdollar2@hotmail.com

CD Review

Missy Elliot:
Under Construction

Label: Elektra/Asylum
Genre: Hip Hop

'Construction' is worth the wait

by Tim Edwards
Staff writer

Missy Elliot comes back to you with her latest LP "Under Construction."

This album shows more of Missy's creative side, as Missy got more involved on the production of her CD. The lead single "Work It" is a club banger. The reaction for the song is incredible when DJ's spin "Work It." The song is steadily rising on the billboard charts. Missy keeps with the tradition of "Get Your Freak On" with "Work It."

"Gossip Folks" features Ludacris. The song has been receiving some mix show play. A possible video could be in the future. This would reunite Missy with Ludacris since their collaboration on Missy's "One Minute Man."

Another song to check on the album is "Back In The Day" which features Jay Z. This songs content is about the Hip-Hop culture. Missy and Jigga talk about the beginning of Hip-Hop and the elevation of the music. On this LP you can really see the influence Hip-Hop has in Missy music.

Missy's album cover is a take on the styles of the early Hip-Hop culture. A break in the "Work It" song comes from a Run DMC song.

In "Nothing There For Me" Missy takes a different approach as she lets Beyonce Knowles be the main artist. The song is about a woman who loves and is faithful to her man. Beyonce's girl whom Missy portrays tries to get her to trick on her man. Beyonce explains to her friend that her man is all that she needs. Missy wrote the song almost like a regular conversation between two people, a concept that many artists have tried and failed. In Missy's case the back and forth vocals between Beyonce and herself flow naturally like two friends chatting. Missy show's her producing talent in this song; she uses Beyonce's voice the best I have seen since Beyonce was with Destiny's Child.

Overall Missy's "Under Construction" is a hot album with a blend of Hip-Hop and R&B. Missy lets her creative juices flow. Her fans will not be disappointed.

e-mail Tim at: clockdollar2@hotmail.com

Background info

Missy Elliot

bio

Name:
Melissa Elliot
Born:
Portsmouth, VA

Originally, member of 'Sista' in the early 90's.

Later produced and arranged for artists such as:
Janet Jackson,
Mariah Carey,
702, SWV, Total,
LilKim, Ginuwine,
Adina Howard
and Da Brat
Went solo 1997